

May 10, 2010

WASHINGTON, DC - Today, U.S. Rep. Michael Arcuri (NY-24) was joined by representatives from Centro as well as management and employees of Daimler Buses North America (formerly known as "Orion Bus") for a tour of the company's Oriskany facility to highlight millions of dollars in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Bill) funding to improve area transportation infrastructure. Arcuri also praised the partnership between Centro and Daimler Buses that has reinvested such a large portion of Centro's Recovery funding back into the local economy. Arcuri's remarks were delivered in front of an Orion VII Clean Diesel bus purchased by Centro with Recovery Bill funding and slated for immediate service in Rome, NY, which stands as an example of that partnership.

"Improving our transportation infrastructure is the first step towards rebuilding our communities, and creating jobs and opportunities for our Upstate New York economy to flourish," **said Arcuri who sits on the House Transportation Subcommittee on Highways and Transit.**

"Not only has the Recovery Bill provided Centro with much needed funding to improve service across the region but in addition, much of that work to upgrade their fleet of buses has been done by local workers right here in Oriskany, infusing millions of dollars into our local economy."

"We view the ARRA funds secured by Congressman Arcuri as a double win for our communities," **said Centro Executive Director Frank Kobliski.** "As the public transportation provider for Central New York, Centro has used this money to provide our customers with new state-of-the-art transit vehicles. In addition, we were able to purchase these buses from Orion Bus Inc, a local manufacturer, reinvesting millions of dollars into our local economy."

"We appreciate our partnership with local transit agencies like CENTRO," **said Patrick Scully, chief commercial officer from Daimler Buses North America.**

"This partnership assists by providing local transit for our communities, while supporting local jobs within our communities as well."

Centro received \$12.6 million in Recovery Bill funding that has allowed them to maintain their fleet of buses, paratransit vehicles and replace dozens of bus shelters, preserving service levels throughout Central New York. Of this funding, \$7.6 million was reinvested into our local economy to purchase 19 Orion VII buses, which were built at Daimler Buses North America's

Oriskany facility by local workers. Eighteen of those buses have gone into service for CNY Centro in Syracuse, with the remaining bus to be put into immediate service in Rome, NY.

In addition to the business secured from Centro, Daimler Buses estimates that they have built 250 buses for other transit authorities across the country as a direct result of Recovery Bill funding, ensuring work for the 590 employees at their Oriskany facility.

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